LNHP

Rare Animals of Louisiana



Purse Casemaker Caddisfly

Hydroptila ouachita

Rarity Rank: S1/G1 No photo available.

Identification:

- Brown coloration, short antennae (28 segments), species identified through characteristics of the male genitalia;
- Very hairy, thorax has no warts.
- Caddisflies are slender, elongated insects; 4-winged, holds together over body like a roof; long, slender legs.
- Larvae: Similar to a caterpillar.

Measurements:

• 2.5 mm in length.

Taxonomic comments:

• No recognized subspecies.

Habitat:

• Small artesian springs.

Food habits:

• Some species of caddisfly larvae eat only plant materials while others are predators.

Reproduction:

- Larval case is purse-shaped with both ends open.
- When ready to hatch, the larvae attach their cases to the underside of stones and use their mandibles to cut their way out.
- Pupae then crawl out of the water and molt to become adults.

Threats:

• Degradation of water quality can have a huge impact on the ability of these species to survive.

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent erosion and siltation
- Follow Best Management Practices for Streamside Management Zones, possibly increasing width.
- Prevent vehicular traffic across streams



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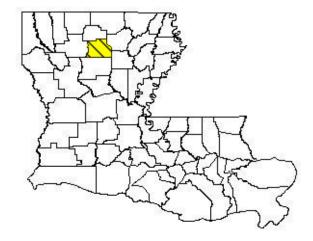


U. S. Range: LA, TX

References:

Borror, D.J., and R.E. White. 1970. A field guide to insects of America and north of Mexico. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, N.Y.

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